

Nations of necessary funding, we cannot expect it to become a more effective organization. Withholding funds from this worthy organization is the wrong way to urge its reform. It hinders the organization's efforts to reform and deprives the world of the benefits that treaties such as the Treaty for the Rights of Women advocate.

SUPPORTING FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY SUMMIT INITIATIVES AND MISSION OF NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION AND UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 180, which supports initiatives by the national fire services to reduce fire fighter fatalities and injuries.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER, for introducing this important measure. Mr. HOYER is a co-chair of the Fire Caucus and is a leading supporter of the fire services in Congress.

This resolution calls attention to the need to take action to reduce fire fighter deaths and injuries. It explicitly endorses the call from the major fire service organizations for a stand down to promote fire fighter safety.

The stand down would apply to every volunteer and career fire department in the Nation. It would require that each department suspend all non-emergency activities in order to concentrate on measures to raise awareness of safety issues and to institute steps to improve safety.

A growing perception of the need to take corrective action to improve safety was the motivation for a major summit meeting of the fire service community in March 2004. The summit developed 16 fire fighter life safety initiatives, which are listed in the resolution before the House.

Unfortunately, despite widespread dissemination and discussion of the initiatives, corrective action has been slow to develop, and the trend in loss of life in the fire services has not improved.

The stand down constitutes an action to try to change the culture, which is widely believed to be the key factor in bringing about constructive change.

The fire services perform a critical public safety role and all Americans respect the high level of devotion to duty and sacrifice that characterize fire service personnel. I applaud this resolution that seeks to reduce the loss of life and serious injury that too often occur to fire fighters during the performance of their hazardous duties.

Mr. Speaker, I comment this resolution to my colleagues and ask for their support in its passage by the House.

Since 1997, 29 Oregon firefighters have been listed in the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Database of the U.S. Fire Administration. They are:

Sanit Arovitx, Richard Hernandez and Kip Krigbaum (Columbia Helicopters, USDA Fire Service contractor);

Randall E. Carpenter, Jeffrey E. Common and Robert Charles Hanners (Coos Bay Fire and Rescue);

Paul E. Gibson, David Kelly Hammer, Jeffery D. Hengel, Jesse D. James, Richard Burt Moore, II, Leland Price, Jr., Mark Robert Ransdell and Ricardo M. Ruiz (First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry Contractor);

Robert Chisholm (Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department);

Jake Martindale, Zachary Zigich, Daniel Eric Rama, Bartholomew Blake Bailey, and Retha Mae Shirley (Grayback Forestry, Inc., USDA Forest Service Contractor);

Larry A. Brown (Kingsley Field Fire Department, Klamath Falls);

John Robert Hazlett (Odell Fire District); David Craig Mackey (Oregon Department of Forestry, Western Lane District);

Lawrence J. Hoffman (Oregon Department of Forestry);

Thomas Howard Kistler (Polk County Fire District #1);

Gerald Meyers (Sumpter Fire Department); Randall Harmon (Superior Helicopter, LLC, Grants Pass);

Richard Warren Black (Weyerhaeuser, Eugene Helicopter Operation); and

Tony B. Chapin (Willamina Fire Department).

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM R. RUTTER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, William R. Rutter. Mr. Rutter is a proud American who served our country in two major wars. After serving in World War II, Bill Rutter entered the U.S. Army Reserves, however, when the Korean conflict began he immediately volunteered again for active duty. After the Korean War he returned to the Reserves, serving a total of 37 years.

On December 15, 1950 in Korea when Bill Rutter was a Sergeant First Class with Fox Company, 7th Infantry, 3rd Regiment I.D., he volunteered to take a combat patrol out to probe and locate the enemy position and strength. Easy Company, 7th Infantry Regiment was pinned down. When they reached a position approximately opposite Easy Company they drew extremely heavy fire from the enemy force. There appeared to be two reinforced rifle companies with attached units. All of this patrol, with the exception of Sergeant Rutter, sustained wounds. He located a position that was protected where they couldn't be hit. He instructed his men to start walking back down the hill slowly one at a time while he and one of his men who was unable to walk provided cover fire. When they were all down the hill, Mr. Rutter strapped the wounded young Private on his back with his rifle belt and ran down the hill under extremely heavy fire. Sergeant Rutter was able to get all his men out alive that day.

Following his heroic service Bill Rutter served as a Deputy Federal Marshall and spent time working with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in several locations, including Alcatraz in California. He concluded his service in Colorado working for the Youth Conservation Core under the Bureau of Land Management.

He retired in 1981 and lives the small Eastern Colorado community of Fleming.

Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country with citizens who willingly volunteer to put themselves in harm's way to defend and protect our great Nation.

I am proud to honor Bill for his courage and sacrifice on behalf of all Americans. I applaud Bill for his courage and selfless dedication to duty. He has helped protect our democracy and kept our homeland safe by placing his life on the line. Bill truly is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today.

We can maintain the blessings of our freedoms only because we have citizens like Bill Rutter.

EXCESSIVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, it is worth noting that this country has seen an increase in consumer and investor confidence, and a significant market recovery. Corporate scandals and plunging stock prices forced Congress to pass the most sweeping regulation of corporate activity since the 1930s, when the SEC was created.

Many positive developments have resulted from the passage of Sarbanes-Oxley, however more can be done. I fear that we have not seen the last of the corporate abuse exhibited by the Enrons and Worldcoms of the world, especially with regard to the raiding of pension funds.

I am concerned about a growing number of corporate executives in America who are less than fully accountable to their shareholders or employees. Some continue to demand and receive outrageous salaries and perks while their companies flounder. In some cases, these executives face civil and criminal investigations for fraud and corruption.

The current environment under which Corporate America pays its executives allows for minimal, if any, input by the shareholders. Oftentimes their will is suppressed, as was the case with Alcoa Inc. in 2003, when the board of directors rejected a proposal approved by the majority of shareholders that urged the board of directors to seek shareholder approval for future severance agreements with senior executives. Boards of directors continue to reward their executives with outrageous retirement packages regardless of the company's performance. Not only is the discrepancy between pay and performance a problem, but the fact that the disclosure to shareholders comes months after the payments are made is troubling.

One of the most disturbing facts of these misguided or criminal actions by corporate leaders is that their employees see their hard-earned profit sharing plans disappear. Yet, these corporate "rock stars" ride off with their guaranteed benefits package intact, while the